

## GRIGG-GOODWYN.

A FASHIONABLE MARRIAGE IN PETERSBURG YESTERDAY.

Republican Split Biswiddie—Opposition to Harris, the Republican Nominee—Alleged Railroad Thieves.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

PETERSBURG, October 18, 1887.

St. Paul's Episcopal church was filled this afternoon at 4 o'clock by a fashionable assembly, gathered to witness the marriage of Mr. Edward W. Grigg and Miss Lillie W. Goodwyn. The bride and groom are both well known and very popular in society circles here. There were no waters and no flowers, with the exception of a beautiful floral horseshoe, Rev. Dr. C. R. Bains, the rector, officiated. Messrs. George Cameron, Jr., R. T. Arrington, Jr., T. Bruce Blinn, Robert Seay, Charles W. Bunnell, and E. A. Goodwyn, Jr., acted as ushers. The bride, who is one of the most charming and lovable young ladies in our city, was dressed in a delicate travelling costume of dark blue cloth and moire silk. The groom is a young merchant and very popular. Among the friends from abroad in attendance were Miss Martin, of Norfolk; Miss Goodwin of Nottoway, and Mr. Frank H. Lewis, of Norfolk. After the ceremonies at the church the couple left on the 5 o'clock train on a bridal trip to the North. The bridal presents were numerous and some of them very handsome, aggregating nearly over one hundred.

REPUBLICAN DISSATISFACTION IN DINWIDDIE.

The County Court of Dinwiddie was in session yesterday, but there was nothing of interest on the docket—a single appeal case from the decision of a justice being the only trial. Nevertheless there was a large attendance of people, drawn together by the public interest in the politics of the county. It is understood that a great deal of dissatisfaction has been caused by the nomination of A. W. Harris (colored Republican) for the House of Delegates, and that the party is badly split in consequence. Harris has represented the county in the lower House of the Legislature for several terms, but at the spring election he actively advocated the election of the independent candidate for treasurer as against that of the regular nominee of the party, Mr. S. Y. Gilliam; and, as will be remembered, Mr. Gilliam was defeated. Harris, it is said, is now being opposed by the Gilmerites. There were several speeches at the court-house yesterday, and the feeling is represented to be such that probably there may be an independent candidate against Harris.

RAILROAD THIEVES.

In the Mayor's Court this morning the three negroes—William Robinson, Lewis Winters, and Alexander Givens—charged with breaking into and robbing a freight-car on the Petersburg and Weldon railroad, of a quantity of meat, came up for trial. Robinson has been a trusted servant of the company for a long time. He and Givens went to the Huntingdon Court for trial and Winters was sent to jail for thirty days. It was shown in the evidence that Winters was not so much in the burglary, but was simply employed to help carry the stolen meat away.

GENERAL NOTES.

A gentleman who has just returned from an extensive trip through the Southside counties says that the tobacco crop has all been harvested, but that the best estimates do not place the present crop above 60 percent of the average.

Rev. M. L. Wood, pastor of the West End Baptist church, has been confined to bed by sickness for several days past.

The Democratic Executive Committee will decide at their meeting tomorrow night whether there will be any candidates in this city. The belief now is that there should be.

Eain has been falling steadily all day.

ROBIN ADAMS.

THE PRATHER BOYS GOOD LUCK.

A STORY OF Fortune in the OUTDOORS.

Becated by the Death of a Horse.

A Bradford (Pa.) paper says: There died on a farm near Erie lake, Crawford county, a few days ago a horse that in January, 1886, figured prominently in one of the most important operations in the history of oil development in Venango county—an operation by which the owner of the horse and his two brothers, without a dollar of capital, made a million dollars apiece. The horse was known as "The Prather horse," and was formerly the property of the late George Prather, of Meadville. It was nearly twenty-eight years old.

George Prather was one of those Pennsylvania boys who started a country store in the village of Plumer, Venango county, in 1884. John Prather was married to the daughter of an old farmer named Holmden, who lived on Pittsboro creek, seven miles beyond Pittsboro developments in 1884. In the fall of that year representatives of a new corporation, known as the United States Oil Company, leased a part of old man Holmden's farm and began putting down wells on it. The era of oil companies, which subsequently swelled the public out of millions of dollars in a few months' time, was then beginning. No one in the neighborhood of Holmden had any faith in the existence of oil outcrops, but the Prather brothers thought that the strength of the United States Company's having begun actual operations on the farm they might utilize the fact in a little speculation of their own. They had no money, but John Prather, the son-in-law of the owner of the farm, made the latter an offer of \$25,000 for the removal of the remainder of his farm for sixty days. As \$25,000 was more than ten times the value of his property, Holmden took the chances of the boys being able to raise the money, and readily signed the papers.

By the middle of November the drill on the United States lease had reached third sand—the sand in which oil had invariably been found along Oil Creek—but no oil was found. The drill was continued, however, to delay the day of judgment to give opportunity for the plan to work. The company's stock with crotchet operations to cease for the time, just as the drill reached a fourth sandstone until then unknown.

The Prather boys had not done anything with the Holmden farm as late as January, 1885. Then they concluded to push it in the market, as they believed a few weeks more would see the failure of the United States Company's scheme. George Prather was sent east to find a customer for the farm. At Pittsburgh he interested C. B. Duncan of the firm of Duncan & Kent in the matter, and the two went on to Philadelphia to dispose of the property. Toward the middle of January the weather grew mild, and there came a break up. The superintendent of the United States Company paid a visit to the well, with the intention of drawing the tools and abandoning the work. His curiosity prevailed upon him to see what the character of the fourth sand was, and he fired up and started the well. It had taken a few turns when it dropped eight feet in the well and tapped the oil vein. The well was tubed, and it suddenly began flowing, spouting oil at a 300-barrel rate.

That was before the days of oil-well "mysteries," and the news of the strike at the Holmden farm soon spread through the region. The farm at once

jumped among the millions in value. John and Abraham Luther were with their brother George in the East trying to sell the farm, and ignorant of the oil strike, might even then have disposed of it for a song. Telegrams were sent to him at Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, but he could not be found. There was as yet no rail road communication between Oil City and Pittsburgh. George Prather owned a very fleet and strong young horse, and John mounted that horse and started for Pittsburgh. He did not leave the saddle until he had made the entire distance, nearly 100 miles, over the crooked and hilly roads along the Allegheny river. At Pittsburgh he took the cars for Philadelphia. If the train had been one minute later the Prather boys would have lost \$2,000,000, for John met his brothers George and Duncan on the Girard House steps, as they were on their way to close out the sale of the farm for \$100,000. The three took the next train for Pittsboro and reached the Holmden farm the day before the six days' refusal expired.

Holmden Creek was then overrun with excited speculators, and almost any price was offered for land. The rise of Pittsboro city had begun. Mrs. Holmden, the old farmer's wife, refused to sign the deed to the farm unless the price was put at \$125,000 and a present of \$5,000 in gold was given to her. The \$125,000 was quickly raised by selling a very small interest in the farm, but the whole property came near being forfeited in the search for the \$5,000 in gold. It was obtained through the banker Culver, of Bonseville, just in time to save the property. The Prather boys and Duncan made \$1,000,000 on the property, and all left Pittsboro before the bottom dropped out. All three of the boys lost their fortunes afterward in speculation. George died in Middletown. The horse that carried his brother to Pittsburgh on that eventful January day with the news of the oil strike at Pittsboro was used by him for many years, and after his death was sold to the farmer who owned it until his death last week.

Long before the crash came at Pittsboro it was known that the capital of the United States Oil Company was petitions, and that its venture on the Holmden farm was entirely of the wild-cat order, made for the purpose of selling its stock. That it became suddenly one of the wealthiest companies ever organized in the oil regions and was enabled to pay enormous dividends was to no one much of a surprise as to its projectors themselves. It made the fortune of every one connected with it, and is referred to still as the most successful wild-cat venture in the history of any speculation.

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WANTED, WHITE-AWARE INSURANCE AGENTS AND OTHERS.

WANTED, A GOOD WHITE SEAL. WANT A SMALL FAMILY ONE, WILLING TO WORK AND DESIRING A GOOD HOME. APPLY BETWEEN OCT. 15 AND 22. P. M. FOR NECESSARIES, 101 Main street.

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